

in an interesting 2001 report. As well, President Nazarbaev, stung by international criticism of his efforts to regulate speech, has rescinded a number of the 1998–2000 decrees.

This is not to say that immutable economic or social forces will bring about a full Kazakh democracy no matter what the authorities do. Countries like China, for example, have much wider Internet access and a larger middle class—but still no elections, and no substantial opposition parties.

In Kazakhstan, however, the Internet and other information sources act in combination with independent parties, muddy elections—but elections nevertheless—and what should be a parliamentary opposition. And the government has moved gradually (tortuously gradually; perhaps) towards more freedom; not less, since the country achieved independence in 1991.

The election itself raised several problems. For example, a Monday item in *The New York Times*, “Intimidation Alleged in Vote in Kazakhstan,” starts with a quote harshly condemning the elections from Dos Kushyn, who is described as “the director of the Network of Independent Monitors,” which placed 2,000 observers around the country.

This caught the attention of at least one seasoned Kazakh observer who sent me a number of pre-election clips referring to approximately 1,000 accredited election observers in the country—total, from all outside groups. How could one fellow, running an organization never mentioned before, have 2,000 observers?

It turns out that Dos Kushyn is an opposition figure and whatever 2,000 “observers” he fielded, few were accredited. This doesn’t mean their opinions should be dismissed. But neither should his complaints be taken at face value, still less as coming from a wholly disinterested group.

Most Western press quoted only Kazakh officials defending the election or putting it in context. In other words, they presented criticism from independent sources, and praise only from the government, whose motives are likely to be questioned by any skeptical reader. What they didn’t do was refer to the numerous independent observers, some cited above, who said that on balance, the election didn’t meet Western standards—but was an improvement.

The government also used voting machines, which are, indeed, a problem—especially given that the computers Kazakhstan deployed, like some of those coming into use in a number of U.S. states, left no “paper trail.” This is not a best practice. One can sympathize, however, with the government’s decision to go with expensive, high-tech systems from the West, thinking this would buy some credibility.

The United States—which in contrast to Kazakhstan is allowing a total of 20 (that’s right, 20) independent observers for its 2004 vote—should be a little reticent about raising this complaint.

Still less should U.S. policy aim at punishing the country with economic aid restraints and sanctions, as some in Congress have proposed.

Unlike other countries in what one observer has called “the scud belt,” Kazakhstan doesn’t need piles of aid (Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq) to hold votes or stay on the democratic path. It hasn’t built or tried to build nuclear weapons (Pakistan, India, China). It seems, knock on wood, to be moving the right way—as opposed to Iran, Saudi Arabia, and others.

This is said not to criticize the other countries mentioned, but to point out that the Kazakhs are building democracy quietly and by tugging their own bootstraps, and without evident imperial ambitions or terrorist-nationalist resentments.

Kazakhstan is an important potential ally to the United States, Russia, and its neighbors in the “war on terror.” It’s also a potential bulwark for the faintly democratic tide among countries with large (about 45 percent) Muslim populations. There is a prospect of a ring of democracies on the borders of China and Iran, the better to raise the heat on those undemocratic states. And large Muslim-population states—Turkey, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mongolia, and potentially Iraq and Afghanistan—serve as examples and proof that Islam need not be anti-democratic.

Thus Kazakhstan is moving in a democratic direction—too slowly, but not going the wrong way. The right response for friends of democracy is to offer encouragement. If matters reverse, it’s time for some mild sticks. Working slowly by contrast, should bring soft applause and some small carrots.

HONORING CHIEF RICHARD STEINEL, JR.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Richard Steinel, Jr., for more than 30 years of outstanding public service on the police force. He is being honored today, October 8, 2004, at a retirement party in Union City, New Jersey.

Chief Steinel began his career in 1974 as a patrolman in the Union City Police Department where he worked with the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Program. He later spent time working for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey before returning to Union City and advancing through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and, in 1992, Captain of Police. After years of quality service as a Captain, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police, a position he held for the rest of his time on the force.

Earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his reputation for fairness, Chief Steinel was especially successful in matters concerning domestic violence enforcement and education. In addition to his police service, he was a guest lecturer at universities and was a member of the State Attorney General’s Criminal Justice Training Staff. An accomplished law enforcement officer, Chief Steinel was the first person from Union City to attend the FBI National Academy in 40 years.

Continuing a long-standing family tradition of police work, Chief Steinel joined his great-grandfather, grandfather, father (Captain Richard J. Steinel, Sr.), and uncle in their proud service to the community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Richard Steinel, Jr., for his years of dedicated public service. His strong leadership and commitment to improving law enforcement and safety has benefited the lives of the police force and the citizens of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN K. GOYA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 31 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Stephen K. Goya for his 31 years of dedicated service with the California Department of Corrections, Parole and Community Services. Mr. Goya is an example of the hard work and a commitment to excellence shown by California’s Corrections Officers. He will be honored by the Department of Corrections on October 29, 2004 in the city of Brea, California.

Stephen K. Goya began his career as a Parole Agent I with the Department of Corrections, Parole and Community Services Division on October 10, 1977. Prior to that, he worked as a Probation Officer for the Orange County Probation Department. He was promoted to Parole Agent II/Supervisor in January 1983. He then further advanced his career with the Department of Corrections as a Parole Agent III Unit Supervisor in October 1985 and in 1987, he was promoted to Parole Administrator I. In December 1992, Mr. Goya was once again promoted to Parole Administrator II Level. In that classification, Mr. Goya functioned as the Operations Manager for the Parole Division in Sacramento as well as the Deputy Regional Administrator in Region IV Headquarters. Mr. Goya’s current classification is that of Regional Parole Administrator over Region IV. Mr. Goya was promoted to Regional Parole Administrator CEA III Level on January 20, 1998. Region IV is comprised of five different counties (Orange, San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, Riverside), 51 field units, 21 office locations and over 742 parole staff.

We rely upon our Corrections, Parole and Community Services Officers to keep our community safe and monitor those who are making their way back into society. Stephen K. Goya has worked tirelessly for over three decades to lead these Officers in their mission. His efforts have improved life in Southern California. Stephen K. Goya has earned my many thanks and I wish him great success in all his future endeavors.

SALUTING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SUN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the San Fernando Valley (SFV) Sun, an important local newspaper in my congressional district.

On October 25, 2004, the Sun will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Press—precursor to the Sun—was the San Fernando Valley’s first newspaper and is the oldest continually published newspaper in the Valley. Throughout its history, the publishers have been committed to serving the local needs of its readers and advertisers.